

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

February 21, 1963

SUBJECT: OAS Aspects of Cuba Situation

QUESTION: In connection with the Cuban situation, what further steps are contemplated either bilaterally or in conjunction with the OAS?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

Press comment and interest in the past few days has followed the line expressed by the President in his press conference of February 14 in answering a question about the report of the OAS Special Consultative Committee on Security. The comment was: "I think the part of the report which is most significant is the emphasis they put on subversion in the continent, the movement of men and perhaps money against the constituted governments. That is a matter which the United States Government is giving its greatest attention to this winter, the question of the lessening not only of the subversion that may come from Cuba but from other parts of the hemisphere."

The OAS has since decided to publish the SCCS report tomorrow, February 22, so that it will have wider distribution. The Council Committee now has under consideration this report and a note of January 30 in which the U. S. alerted other members to statements by Castro and others in the Cuban regime which in effect declared war on the hemisphere.

Assistant Secretary Martin made a statement before the Latin American Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 18 on the subject of Communist subversion in the hemisphere. The press has shown considerable interest in getting copies of this statement, and the Department is publishing additional copies.

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

The United States is strongly supporting the continuing OAS studies on Castro-communist attempts to subvert other governments. The other governments are much concerned with this problem of subversion, from whatever point in the hemisphere it comes.

Responding to Congress' very great interest, Assistant Secretary Martin made a comprehensive statement on Monday before the Latin American Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the subject of Communist subversion in the Western hemisphere.